



IFES Quarterly Report: January 1, 2005 – March 31, 2005

Djibouti Pre-Election Assessment Mission

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC-A-00-01-00004-00

Project Period: March 1, 2005-April 30, 2005

Total Budget: \$25,000 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$258

Results Statement

Djibouti's presidential elections took place on 8 April, 2005. In support of this process, IFES provided a consultant to join the International Republican Institute (IRI) led team of experts that conducted an in-depth evaluation of the electoral environment. The team produced a report providing conclusions and recommendations from the assessment.

Background

Since gaining independence from France in 1977, Djibouti's government has been led by one party - the Rassemblement Populaire Pour Le Progrès (RPP) - which produced the country's first president, Hassan Gouled Aptidon. After serving three six-year terms, Aptidon was succeeded by RPP's Ismail Omar Guelleh in 1999.

In the April 8 election, the incumbent Guelleh won 100% of the ballots cast during the election in which he was the sole candidate due to an opposition boycott. There was a high turnout of approximately 79%.

Activities

During a two-week period, the assessment team met with representatives of political parties, civil society organizations, media and relevant government bodies. They assessed the strengths and weaknesses of these institutions and evaluated the election environment, including the occurrence of intimidation and harassment, evidence of political corruption and issues of inclusion. Using expertise of the IFES team member, the assessment team also examined voter registration and election administration processes. Lastly, team members identified the presence and level of external electoral assistance.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

- Reconciliation of all expenses
- Submission of final assessment report